**What Do You Think??**

The recent change in uniform suppliers has provided a terrific opportunity to review our uniform and ask our school community for their thoughts.

A quick & easy survey has been developed to gather feedback and suggestions which will guide us as we assess our uniform range.

As soon as the survey is available, you will be sent an SMS advising you to visit our website if you wish to participate.

**Complete the 5 minute Uniform Survey for your chance to win a $50 Uniform Shop voucher!!**

Thank you in advance for your support.

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**THE BOOK FAIR IS HERE!**

Winter is nearly upon us and it’s the best time of year to snuggle in bed or on the couch and read. So come to the Book Fair and find yourself a new book or two to pass those cold winter days.

On NOW until May 22nd at 9am.

It is also a great fund raiser for the school library.

This year’s theme is ‘**Reading Oasis**’.

See you in the library!

Josie
Our activities to celebrate Education Week are outlined below:

**Monday May 19th**  School Council Meeting

**Tuesday 20th May**  Excursion to the Drum Theatre Year 1 & 2 to see “Mr McGee & the Biting Flea”

**Wednesday 21st May**  Students enrolling for 2015 are welcome to take part in a tour by our Year 5 & 6 students starting at 9.30am. We are holding an Open Morning for the community from 9am til 11am. Years 3, 4 and Prep will be having Science lessons and Years 1/2 and 5/6 will be focusing on Literacy. Please come and see us at work. I have heard a rumor that sharing of morning tea maybe on the agenda in some classes so make sure you read your child’s year level newsletter for further information.

**Thursday 22nd May**  Stomp the Beat Disco – An invitation to all our families to come and visit their children at the disco. Preps will be having their disco at 2.30pm, Years 1 & 2 at 4.30pm, Years 3 & 4 at 5.30pm and Years 5 & 6 at 7pm. The Disco includes the opportunity to have a sausage in bread before the Disco.

**Annual Report**  Our Annual Report to the community will be presented on Monday June 16th before the scheduled School Council meeting. At this meeting we will formally present the information that is already available on our website. Parents are most welcome to attend this meeting.

**School Uniform**  We are fairly flexible with the wearing of our compulsory School Uniform and I understand there are occasions that prevent the school uniform being worn. As of this Monday I ask if your child is out of uniform **that a note is provided**. All students are now aware that if they are not in school uniform and do not have an explanatory note they will miss play.

**Fundraising**  - I announced at assembly today our fundraising from last year has allowed for the purchasing of $4000 worth of new reading books, $3,000 worth of furniture and expenditure of $2,000 on a new sound system. Thank you to all those who supported our fundraising efforts last year - it is great to be able to use this for the benefit of the school and our students. We are currently running the Great Community Raffle under the auspice of the Rotary Club of Emerald & District and thank you for your support of this activity.

**Future Planning**  – The retirement of Barb Rose and Ray Yates as Principals of our neighbouring schools at the end of last term was a loss to the education community. Both Principals have shown me that working beyond 65 is rewarding and invigorating and the difference experience makes to the school is invaluable. I look forward to keeping in contact with both colleagues and aim to still be Principal of The Patch for many, many, many years to come.

Have a great week!
New Payment Option for OSHC

The Patch School is now offering all parents the opportunity to pay your OSHC fees regularly with a Credit Card or by Direct Debit using *Child Care EasyPay.*

This will allow you to set up an automated process to pay the outstanding balance on your OSHC statement and remove the frustration of having to arrange payment each fortnight.

Parents only need to fill in the Parent Set Up Form available from OSHC or at the document display at the school office, select their preferred method of payment, Credit Card or Direct Debit, return to the school and we will set up your automatic fortnightly payment.

For the parents who already use our in-house fortnightly payment plan, please fill in your details on the Parent Set Up Form, return it as soon as possible and we will arrange for your payment to continue to be debited on a fortnight basis on this new system.

*Alternatively, this system also offers parents the choice of paying by direct deposit when they choose to. A separate form will be available soon to enable personal login details to be issued to use this service.*

**The benefits to you as a parent include:**

- No need to carry cash or cheque
- Once set up, there is no need to remember to pay your OSHC account each fortnight
- Ability to earn additional points and rewards on your credit card
- The cash flow benefits of interest free days (most cards offer between 40 - 55 days interest free period)

We have also been able to negotiate a lower transaction fee for these payments:

**Parents pays (incl GST)**

- Mastercard & Visa: 1.2%
- American Express: 2.2%
- Bank Account: 0.90c

We feel that moving forward with these payment options is in the best interests of both you and the school.

Please come to us with any questions or concerns you have about this new payment option.

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**News from the Office**

Thanks to all those families who have been providing us with prompt payments for the numerous activities that the children have been enjoying.

If you choose the convenience of paying by credit card and send in your details on the credit card slip, please remember to complete the form *fully* (including card expiry date & please also ensure funds are available) so your payment can be processed without delay.

As always, all payments & notes can be dropped in the metal box in front of the office counter and we are continuing to work on uploading all notices sent home to our website for you to access at your convenience if required.

We have several ways of communicating with families now. To stay up to date with what’s happening at school we ask that you:

- access our website regularly,
- register with *tiqbiz* or search for the smartphone or tablet app through the app store
- read your child’s class newsletter (also distributed via tiqbiz or our website) and
- register for our SMS system (orange form) used particularly, but not exclusively, for urgent information

Kind regards,
Karen & Jody
The cold, wet weather did nothing to dampen our spirits during EarthKeepers Camp; if anything, our students embraced the weather and enjoyed the opportunity to be amongst it and to experience it in all its glory. With much of our normal day spent indoors, it was exhilarating to feel the rain and watch the rolling clouds and changing sky.

Our year five students participated in the EarthKeepers program as a whole level for the first time this year following a highly successful program run over the past four years as an optional extra-curricula activity. The EarthKeepers Camp is now our Year 5 Camp and will take place every year and enable participating students to learn important ecological concepts, experience first-hand the wonders of the natural world, and develop valuable skills that will enable them to take a leadership role in the school – helping to drive The Patch Primary’s progress as a Sustainable School.

Earthkeepers is carefully designed to appeal to 10-12 year olds, combining mystery, adventure and discovery to create an experience we hope they will remember for the rest of their lives.

Thank you so much to all our parents for preparing our students so well with warm and weatherproof clothes and to those who volunteered to transport children to and from the camp. It was quite an adventure!

To see a little of what EarthKeepers is about, follow the link: [http://www.dropshots.com/kagis1986#date/2014](http://www.dropshots.com/kagis1986#date/2014) or copy and paste it into your browser; it will prompt you for a guest password. The password is “thepatchps5173”; you will be allowed in to view and save the pictures if you wish.

Here’s a few to enjoy
My Magic Spot: Everything so still
in my magic spot, I'm not afraid
even though it's nearly dark.
I can hear a tiger bird somewhere
close.

On a separate page, there is a drawing of a bird with the word "tiger" written next to it.
The Pitch Drop

The pitch drop experiment is a long-term experiment that measures the flow of a piece of pitch over many years. Pitch is the name for any of a number of highly viscous liquids that appear solid, most commonly bitumen. At room temperature, tar pitch flows at a very slow rate, taking several years to form a single drop.

The first Professor of Physics at UQ, Professor Thomas Parnell, began an experiment in 1927 to illustrate that everyday materials can exhibit quite surprising properties. The experiment demonstrates the fluidity and high viscosity of pitch, a derivative of tar once used for waterproofing boats. At room temperature pitch feels solid - even brittle - and can easily be shattered with a blow from a hammer. It's quite amazing, then, to see that pitch at room temperature is actually fluid!

In 1927 Professor Parnell heated a sample of pitch and poured it into a glass funnel with a sealed stem. Three years were allowed for the pitch to settle, and in 1930 the sealed stem was cut. From that date on the pitch has slowly dripped out of the funnel - so slowly that now, 83 years later, the ninth drop is only just fallen. On 24 April the ninth drop separated during an operation to replace the beaker containing the previous eight drops.

It turns out to be about 100 billion times more viscous than water. In the 83 years that the pitch has been dripping, no-one has ever seen the drop fall.

Listen to Professor Andrew White talking about: The Pitch Drop Experiment on The ABC

http://www.abc.net.au/overnights/stories/s4002015.htm

SCIENCE IN THE CLASSROOM

Science has begun with great excitement and interest in the classrooms. All year levels are currently studying Chemical Science. Please talk about science with your children and encourage them to bring in photos and stories about the science they are discovering every day at home.

Kind Regards Tania and Megan
Equestrian Excellence

Congratulations to Aaliyah for coming 5\textsuperscript{th} out of 28 riders in her class at the recent Tintern Horse Trials.

What a fantastic effort!

Online Safety Talk

On Monday 2\textsuperscript{nd} June (to be confirmed) we will be visited by Leading Senior Constable Diane Bloom, a Youth Resource Officer with Victoria Police, who will talk with students in Grades 3 – 6 about staying safe online.

At a time when the majority of young people participate in the online community, it is important to have a thorough understanding of how to maintain your privacy and security. Parents will also have an opportunity to listen to Diane speak on this subject at 7.30pm that evening. This is a great opportunity to learn some strategies to help manage your child’s online safety and have your questions answered.

You might also like to visit the following recommended sites for information on this topic:


Further details will be available soon and we ask any parent wishing to attend this talk, please register your interest with Jody in the Office.
Working Bees Build Community – Come Along!

On Saturday morning, May 31, from 10am until 1pm, we shall be continuing to prepare our school landscape in preparation for our main fundraiser next year – the Australian Open Garden Scheme.

We will be opening our gates to people from all over Melbourne, Victoria and even Australia to showcase our multi-award winning “Learning Landscape” and to promote our school as a leader in environmental education as well as meaningful and proactive student voice, consultation and leadership.

Come along and share in the excitement of creating something wonderful and bring the kids to enable them to show off what they have learnt and enjoy at school.

We shall be preparing a new area in the fern gully for stage three of our “fern gully project” (bring along gloves, secateurs, loppers and spades), plunging some cuttings of pigface (Carpobrotus sp) into the bank behind the Eco-Centre (bring along gloves, secateurs, spade), weeding areas in need of a clean up (gloves, spades), spreading mulch around the new 4/5/6 learning centre garden (gloves, wheelbarrows, shovels, pitchforks), preparing and cooking pizza for the workers (bring along some toppings, cheese, tomato base, pineapple, etc. to share – we shall have bases) and generally having an opportunity to socialize, meet other families and enjoy our beautiful school.

Members of our garden team shall be supervising activities and no prior knowledge or skills are required! Just come along for as long as you can spare and let’s watch a community in action!

Michelle Rayner
Environmental Eduator
Weed Blitz

Free Environmental Weed Tipping Day

Slides will be available at
Kallista Community House, Kallista

Saturday 31st May 2014
9am - 3pm

- Agapanthus
- Arum Lily
- Asparagus Fern
- Banana Passionfruit
- Cotoneaster
- English Holly
- English Ivy
- Japanese Honeysuckle
- Karamu
- Mirror bush
- Montbretia
- Red Cestrum
- Sweet Pittosporum
- Wandering Trad
- Wild Tobacco Tree

For information on weed removal techniques call 9294 6822 or

When removing weeds please be aware of the potential that native animals may be sheltering in them. Always check woody weeds for nests before removing and where possible replace a weed with an indigenous native plant. Nest boxes are easy to make, inexpensive to buy and a great way of providing homes for native animals.

WEED INFORMATION AND ADVICE AVAILABLE ON THE DAY

http://www.yerraraanges.vic.gov.au

Event sponsored by the Urban Fringe Weed Management Initiative and council’s Weed Wipeout program

We Cannot accept Noxious Weeds due to legal limitations on transportation www.depi.vic.gov.au

EBM Insurance Brokers – Insurance for Students

StudentCover accident insurance was developed to give parents & guardians a helping hand when they need it the most, at a very affordable price.

The annual cost of a StudentCover policy is just $29.00.
The cover provides protection for your children 24 hours a day, seven days a week, anywhere in the world* whether they are at school at the time of the accident or not and includes almost every sport*.

*some conditions apply
For further information click here or collect a flyer from the school office.
Community Notices

Catalyst Kinect Open Day: Home of the Child & Adolescent Wellness Project
Catalyst Kinect is the creation of a Patch School mum, Luella Cochrane. Luella is a Holistic Kinesiologist and Educational Consultant working with people of all ages, stages and abilities to optimise their health, wellbeing and performance in all areas. Come along to the Open Day to catch a glimpse of what’s on offer...

SATURDAY 31ST MAY, 11AM-3PM
FREE workshops, face painting and giveaways. Final schedule to be announced soon...
Enquiries can be directed to Luella by phone or email- 0447 876 060 or luella@catalystkinect.net

2010 NISSAN Navara 4X4, 74,000kms, BIG TRIP READY
This single owner white turbo diesel Navara, is ready for that BIG TRIP you have always wanted to go on. It’s NEVER been used for towing. $17,000 worth of extras including: canopy and decked-out tube with sliding false floor, built in fridge, 55ltrs water on board, long range fuel tank, bull bar, rear bar, winch, front Diff lock, heavy duty 4x4 suspension, bellow airbags, 5 Cooper ST-Max tyres, air compressor on board, dual battery system, roof racks, annex, off market immobilizer and snorkel.
$29,900. Call Willem (The Patch) on 0418 872 400 to inspect and negotiate.

Take Home A Big Brother Or Big Sister
Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2014 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Spain, Germany, Italy, Finland, Norway and Denmark will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!

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Community Notices

In Schools Music
Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, French horn, Trombone, Tuba, Drums, Percussion, and Bass Guitar. New students. Enrolments to Andrew McAllister on 0408467147 or email ismusic@bigpond.com

Music Tuition with Chris Walker Lessons in piano, guitar and bass guitar during school hours and after.
Phone 0407 049 012 or email chrisw7@ymail.com

Come and join The Voice Maker School of Singing!
Students are now having Singing Lessons at School in school time by a Professional Vocal Coach!
For all children that love singing and want to develop confidence within themselves the fun way!
They will also perform in live shows! ONE FREE LESSON available on request so why not give it a try?
Call Jennie on 0410 543 946 or email jennieanastass@gmail.com

Spanish For all Ages ¡Hola Amigos!
After School Spanish classes at The Patch P.S. will run on Wednesdays for Grade 1 to 6 children from 3:45 - 4:30pm and Mondays for our Semi- Private group from 4-5pm
STARTING..... WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12th in the Uniform Room!!!
Come and learn the Language through songs, storytelling, music and dance.
For more information please contact Pilar Nesvara directly on 0435358802 or Pilar7@live.com.au
LUNITA BLUE Creative Spaces ABN 80898480 ¡HASTA PRONTO!

Private Ukulele Lessons
The Patch School students now have the opportunity to take private ukulele lessons, starting next term on Mondays, from week 2 onwards. New Mum to the school, Jess Dunn, has had 5 years' experience teaching ukulele to kids and adults and is looking forward to teaching at The Patch. The cost is $14 for a 20 minute individual lesson or $10 for a paired lesson (subject to suitable pairing). For more information, please call or email.
0408 102 542 jessdunn.arts@gmail.com.au

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